

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 TRSE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 H-03 NSC-10 SS-20

DRC-01 IO-14 OIC-04 OMB-01 AEC-11 AECE-00 ACDE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T VIENNA 1655

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: AD HOC GROUP MEETING ON INFORMAL
DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EAST

FROM US REP MBFR

1. THE AD HOC GROUP MEETING OF FEBRUARY 25 WAS
DEVOTED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY TO THE THE QUESTION OF
POINTS OF CLARIFICATION TO BE PUT TO THE EAST CON-
CERNING THE OUTCOME OF THE INFORMAL DISCUSSION ON
FEBRUARY 20. THE GROUP AGAIN APPROVED THE RESULTS
OF THE FEBRUARY 20 SESSION AS A BASIS FOR CONTINUED
DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EAST SUBJECT TO CLARIFICATION
OF THE POINTS LISTED IN THE TALKING PAPER BELOW,
WHICH WAS ALSO UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

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2. FRG AND UK REPS HAD RECEIVED INFORMAL POSITIVE REACTION FROM CAPITALS PRIOR TO SESSION. UK REP INFORMED US REP THAT FOREIGN OFFICE HAD APPROVED THE OUTCOME OF THE SESSION AS THE BASIS FOR CONTINUED DISCUSSION SUBJECT TO MAKING CLEAR TO THE EAST THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE WITHOUT COMMITMENT ON EITHER SIDE, AND THEY WOULD BE ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS AND SUBJECT TO REVIEW IN THE LIGHT OF PROGRESS MADE. UK REP PROPOSED AND OBTAINED AGREEMENT OF GROUP FOR INCLUSION OF THESE POINTS IN THE AGREED TALKING POINTS TO BE USED IN A BRIEF CONFIRMATORY SESSION WITH THE EAST SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 26.

3. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE TALKING POINTS AGREED BY THE AD HOC GROUP FOR USE ON THAT OCCASION.

BEGIN TEXT:

AT THE LAST MEETING WITH YOU ON 20 FEBRUARY, ALLIED REPRESENTATIVES SAID THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO CONSULT WITH THEIR COLLEAGUES ABOUT THE ITEMS SUGGESTED FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION WITH YOU AND THE TIMING OF THOSE DISCUSSIONS; AND UNDERTOOK TO GIVE YOU THEIR CONSIDERED REACTIONS. I AM NOW IN A POSITION TO DO THIS.

4. MY COLLEAGUES AND I WELCOME THE DEGREE OF COMMON GROUND WHICH EMERGED FROM THE LAST EXCHANGE WITH YOU, AND AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO CONTINUE THESE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE LINES SUGGESTED. IN CONFIRMING OUR ORAL AGREEMENT, WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT WE ALL UNDERSTAND QUITE CLEARLY WHAT WE ARE AGREEING TO. I SHOULD LIKE THEREFORE TO SET OUT FOR YOU THE ALLIED UNDERSTANDING OF THE POSITION.

5. FIRST OF ALL, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE WILL BE TWO ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION BETWEEN US. THESE DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE WITHOUT COMMITMENT ON EITHER SIDE. THEY WOULD ALSO BE ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS AND SUBJECT TO REVIEW IN THE LIGHT OF PROGRESS MADE. THE FIRST ITEM WILL BE CALLED "GROUND FORCES OF THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS;" THE SECOND ITEM WILL BE CALLED "OTHER TOPICS." UNDER THE FIRST ITEM, AN UNDERSTANDING WAS REACHED TO START WITH A DISCUSSION OF US AND SOVIET GROUND FORCES; AND THEN TO CONTINUE WITH THE ISSUE OF THE GROUND FORCES OF OTHER DIRECT PARTICIPANTS.

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MENTAL BASIS AND SUBJECT TO REVIEW IN THE LIGHT OF PROGRESS MADE. THE FIRST ITEM WILL BE CALLED "GROUND FORCES OF THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS;" THE SECOND ITEM WILL BE CALLED "OTHER TOPICS." UNDER THE FIRST ITEM, AN UNDERSTANDING WAS REACHED TO START WITH A DISCUSSION OF US AND SOVIET GROUND FORCES; AND THEN TO CONTINUE WITH THE ISSUE OF THE GROUND FORCES OF OTHER DIRECT PARTICIPANTS.

IT IS ALSO OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE FIRST ITEM WILL INCLUDE A DISCUSSION OF "PHASING/STAGES."

6. UNDER THE SECOND ITEM, WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED AFTER THE AGREED NUMBER OF SESSIONS ON THE FIRST ITEM HAS BEEN COMPLETED, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT BOTH SIDES WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO RAISE OTHER TOPICS OF CONCERN TO THEM. THIS IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMMUNIQUE OF 28 JUNE 1973. YOU HAVE TOLD US THAT YOU INTEND, UNDER THIS ITEM, TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF AIR AND NUCLEAR FORCES, AND WE RECOGNIZE YOUR RIGHT TO DO SO. WE ALSO ACCEPT THAT THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TOPIC TO BE RAISED UNDER THIS ITEM. ON OUR SIDE, WE TOO WILL HAVE TOPICS OF OUR OWN TO RAISE UNDER THIS ITEM. WE PROCEED ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT YOU RECOGNIZE OUR RIGHT TO DO THIS.

7. AS REGARDS THE PROGRAMME, WE RECOGNIZE YOUR DESIRE TO AVOID A SITUATION IN WHICH DISCUSSION NEVER GETS BEYOND THE FIRST ITEM. AT THE SAME TIME, WE REGARD IT AS IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT PARTICIPANTS IN THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE NOT PRECLUDED BY AN UNDULY RIGID TIMETABLE FROM EXPLORING PROMISING AREAS WHICH DISCUSSION MAY OPEN UP. TO MEET BOTH THESE REQUIREMENTS, WE PROPOSE THAT, IN THE FIRST ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS, THREE SESSIONS SHOULD BE ALLOCATED TO ITEM 1, ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT A SIMILAR NUMBER OF SESSIONS CAN SUBSEQUENTLY BE DEVOTED TO ITEM 2.

8. WE ARE ANXIOUS THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS SHOULD MAINTAIN A REASONABLE MOMENTUM: EQUALLY,
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HOWEVER, WE WANT TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS SUFFICIENT TIME FOR CONSULTATION AND REFLEXION BETWEEN THE SESSIONS. IT WILL BE EASIER TO JUDGE THE RIGHT TEMPO ONCE THE DISCUSSIONS HAVE GOT GOING. WE SUGGEST MAKING A START AT THE DINNER ALREADY PROVISIONALLY ARRANGED FOR 27 FEBRUARY AND TO ARRANGE THE DATES OF NEXT WEEK'S SESSIONS AT THAT TIME.

9. ON THE UNDERSTANDINGS I HAVE JUST SET OUT FOR YOU, MY COLLEAGUES AND I ARE READY TO PROCEED WITH THE DISCUSSIONS. END TEXT.HUMES

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